
Russian Life To-day by Herbert Bury

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Russian Life To-day. By RIGHT REV. HERBERT BURY. London: A. R. Mowbray and Company. 1915. Pp. viii, 270.

One interesting effect of the war upon literature has been the rapid increase of books upon Russia, and especially of sympathetic studies of the Russian people, put out for consumption by the English public. Every attempt is being made by English writers to place things Russian in the most favorable light and the resulting books are eagerly read. One of the most successful of these is Bishop Bury's description of Russia as he has found it in his journeys across the Empire, visiting the churches under his care as Bishop of the Anglican Church of North and Central Europe. His position has given him a unique opportunity of seeing the best side of Russian life and his description of peasants and churchmen is very sympathetic. His work brought him in contact with many of the Russian clergy from the Archbishop of Moscow to the parish priest in a little out-of-the-way village of Siberia. From them all he received kindly treatment, and found them always ready to share their service with the English bishop or join with him in the Anglican service. Though the Russian and Anglican churches are not alike, there is a widespread belief among the peasants that they are, which is one of the reasons why the English are so welcome throughout the Empire. Bishop Bury speaks most appreciatively of the Tsar and his personal kindness, describes the government as the most paternal in Europe, insists that Siberian prisons are much to be preferred to English, and even has a good word to say for the much-abused passport system.

Poland and the Polish Question. Impressions and Afterthoughts. By NINIAN HILL. London: George Allen and Unwin. 1915. Pp. 340.

Along with the awakened interest in Russia, the war has aroused a new interest in Poland, from the feeling that in some way the problem of its future will be affected by the outcome of the present struggle. In *Poland and the Polish Question*, half of the book is devoted to an interesting résumé of the history of the country while the other half is given over to a discussion of its present condition and a description of its three capitals, Posen in Germany, Cracow in Austria and Warsaw in Russia, each with its own characteristic features.

In a discussion of the German policy in Posen, emphasis is